

REMARKS

The present application is in condition for allowance.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2003142346 ("JP '346") in view of TAMAMITSU US 6,274,061 ("TAMAMITSU"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP '346 is offered for teaching the claimed features, except for a solvent with a high boiling point, wherein the solvent with a high boiling point is sulfolane, 3-methylsulfolane, or 2,4-dimethyl sulfolane (claims 1-2).

TAMAMITSU is offered for teaching sulfolane, 3-methylsulfolane, and 2,4-dimethyl sulfolane.

However, JP '346 does not qualify as prior art with respect to at least claims 1-4.

JP '346 has a publication date of May 16, 2003.

The priority claimed by the present application includes Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-326028 of November 8, 2002, Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-326723 of November 11, 2002, and Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-326019 of November 7, 2003. A verified English translation for each of the priority documents is provided in the appendix of this amendment. Accordingly, the claim to priority has been perfected.

The features of present claims 1-3 are disclosed in Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-326723. In particular, the features of claim 2, e.g., a high boiling point solvent such as

sulfolane, 3-methylsulfolane, or 2,4-dimethyl sulfolane, are disclosed in paragraph 13.

The features of present claims 1, 3, and 4 are related to, e.g., claim 1 of Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-326028.

The features of present claim 1, 3, and 5 are related to, e.g., claim 1 of Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-326019.

Thus, JP '346 is disqualified as prior art for at least claims 1-4; and the proposed combination cannot render obvious the claimed invention.

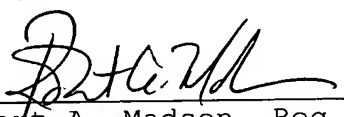
Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the present application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON


Robert A. Madsen, Reg. No. 58,543
209 Madison Street
Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following items:

- Verified English translation of Japanese Patent
Application No. 2002-326019
- Verified English translation of Japanese Patent
Application No. 2002-326028
- Verified English translation of Japanese Patent
Application No. 2002-326723